

AWTP WaterLines

Alvarado Water Treatment Plant Construction Update

Summer 2006

Earl Thomas Reservoir Dedicated

A dedication ceremony was held last December for the new Earl Thomas Reservoir, named after Earl F. Thomas, a superintendent of water distribution for the city for 19 years. Several community improvements were also unveiled including the new directional sign to Lake Murray, a parking lot, and landscaping. Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Jim Madaffer were in attendance along with other dignitaries, community members, contractors and Water Department staff.



The completed Earl Thomas Reservoir holds 35 million gallons of drinking water.



Dorothy Leonard, Chair of the Mission Trails Regional Park Community Advisory Council, addressed the audience during the dedication.

Security Enhancement

In order to improve safety and protect the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant and Lake Murray Dam, physical and electronic security measures have recently been installed and upgraded. These measures were required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Signs reading, "No Trespassing," "No Videotaping," and "Warning- Area Under Video Surveillance," have been posted along Kiowa Drive and Lake Murray Boulevard. Residents and visitors to the area should be aware that the treatment plant is not open to the public.

Further upgrades of the security system are planned. The Water Department is currently applying for grant funds toward additional security measures at the plant and other Water Department facilities throughout

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*The Water
Department
Capital
Improvements
Program is
committed to
creating a safe
and reliable water
treatment and
distribution system
with state-of-the-
art facilities at the
lowest possible cost
to our customers.*



Keeping our water clean

The proper use of pesticides and herbicides is critical to maintaining the quality of our water resources. When pesticides and herbicides are applied, they have the potential to run off to sites that could impact our water. Pesticides and herbicides can be toxic to fish and wildlife, and can pose a threat to public health. By using Best Management Practices (BMPs) and following product label direction, the potential for pesticide and herbicide runoff into our drinking water sources, including the City's reservoirs, can be minimized. These BMP's are listed in a brochure available to the public. You can download a copy at <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/operations/environment/watersheds.shtml> or request one by calling 619-527-3121.



the city. One grant application is with the State of California for \$10 million toward these improvements. The Water Department is also seeking grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

For maximum security of its facilities, the Water Department also relies on the community to serve as extra eyes and ears. If any suspicious activities are observed at the plant, please contact the local law enforcement agency or the Water Department at 619-515-3525.



The front of the Earl Thomas Reservoir is secured by an entrance gate.

Phase II is Nearing Completion

Phase II of the Upgrade and Expansion Project is nearing completion, as the contractors finish construction of the new flocculation and sedimentation basins. Chemicals are applied and mixed with imported and local water in the basins, allowing dirt and other particles to settle down at the bottom. The excess particles are then removed and separated from the water.

After two years and several months of work, the basins have been constructed and are now being tested for leaks. The mixing equipment has been installed and will soon be connected to electrical power. Shortly thereafter, operational tests of the equipment will take place. The contractor will complete final grading, an access road, and site clean-up prior to finishing this phase of the project. Phase II is scheduled to be complete by February 2007.



The new flocculation and sedimentation basins are close to completion.

What's Next?

The next phase of the project is the construction of the ozone generation facilities located at the northwest side of the plant facing Lake Murray. Total project cost is estimated at \$62.3 million and includes a new four-story ozone building with two stories above ground and two below. The project is scheduled to begin construction next summer through winter 2009. The Water Department is currently looking into interim private financing to help pay for capital projects. The department is also seeking \$20 million in funds from the State of California through Proposition 50, under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. This bond measure was passed by California voters to provide funds for safe drinking water, flood protection, watershed protection, water conservation, water supply, and water security programs. A full application is currently being developed and will be submitted to the Department of Health Services for further consideration.

In addition to this phase, there are plans for the SD-17 Pump Station, a two-story facility which will move water from the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant into a San Diego County Water Authority aqueduct. The pump station will be constructed in the next few years along Lake Murray Boulevard, where a vacant slope near a eucalyptus grove currently stands. The exact schedule for this project will be determined after financing becomes available.



The plans for Phase IV include a new ozone building and shoreline landscaping.

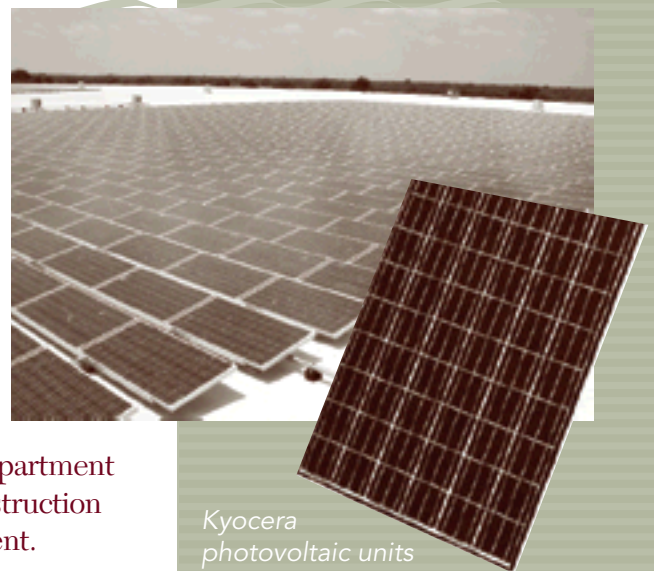
The Alvarado Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project is part of the Water Department's Capital Improvements Program to increase capacity and reliability to meet current and future water needs. These improvements will ensure our water will meet all drinking water standards and provide maximum protection of public health.

Clean Energy Project at Plant to Save Taxpayer Dollars

During the next several months, a series of solar panels will be installed atop three water reservoirs at the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant. Non-polluting "green" energy from these panels will generate about 20 percent of the plant's power requirements, including its pump stations, training facility, and on-site laboratory. The photovoltaic (PV) system makes use of the roofs of the reservoirs constructed during the plant's upgrade and expansion project.

When the solar project is completed late this year, 5,680 panels will produce about 908 kilowatts of electricity, saving the Water Department an estimated \$40,000 in annual energy costs. The photovoltaic construction project is managed by the City's Environmental Services Department.

A private firm, Sun Edison SD LLC, will install, own, operate and maintain the photovoltaic system, saving city taxpayers millions of dollars in capital costs. Additional savings will come from the electricity generated by Sun Edison's PV system that will be purchased by the city at reduced cost.



Kyocera photovoltaic units on support rails will be installed at low angles atop the water reservoir roofs, saving both energy and tax dollars.



**The City of San Diego
Water Department**

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Clean Energy Project at Plant to Save Taxpayer Dollars

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Use of “green” energy at the plant and other City of San Diego facilities is a step closer to making the city more energy-efficient. In 2004, the City Council adopted a 50-megawatt renewable energy goal designed to save energy, improve the local economy, reduce global warming and move the city to energy independence.

Useful Water Department Phone Numbers

Project Information Line:	619-533-4679
Billing Information:	619-515-3500
Recycled Water Program:	619-515-3500
Drinking Water Questions:	619-668-3232
Water Pressure Problems:	619-527-7482
Report a Water Main Break:	619-515-3525
Lakes Recreation Program:	619-465-3474
Speakers Bureau:	619-533-6638
Group Jobs Information:	858-573-5081
Storm Water Pollution Prevention:	619-235-1000
EPA Drinking Water Information:	800-426-4791

For more information
about the Water
Department Capital
Improvements Program
or updated information
about this project, please
visit [www.sandiego.gov/
water/cip](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/cip) or call the
CIP Information Line
at **619-533-4679**.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

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